

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on April 27, 2004.

Claim 19 is amended, and no claims are cancelled or added; as a result, claims 19-23 remain pending in this application.

Affirmation of Election

Restriction to one of the following claims was required:

Group I: Claims 19-23; or

Group II: Claims 24-29.

As provisionally elected by Applicants representative, John Dahl, on March 29, 2004, Applicant elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 19-23. Claims 24-29 are withdrawn.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foust et al. (U.S. 3,663,922) in view of Zielinski (U.S. 4,060,889).

The cited portions of Foust appear to show a flat cable having two conductive layers separated by an insulating layer, and a connector having terminals attached to the conductors of each layer. It does not disclose capacitors connected between the conductive layers, as admitted in the Office Action.

Zielinski teaches that a flat cable having a plurality of conductors may be configured to carry components, including capacitors, and so become a flexible circuit. The intent in doing so is taught as modification of electrical signals within the flexible circuit. Zielinski does not teach use of such components in a connector, but simply considers construction of a circuit on a flexible multilayer conductor. Zielinski further fails to teach connection of a plurality (two or more) of capacitors between first and second conductive layers.

The claims of the present invention recite a method of making a connector assembly, as was recited in the preamble of claim 19 as originally filed and as is described throughout the specification and drawings. To further clarify the connector assembly nature of the elements,

independent claim 19 has been amended to more clearly reflect that the capacitors and the connector plug are both elements of the same connector assembly, rather than parts of a flexible cable or circuit external to a connector.

Because neither cited reference teaches a plurality of cables connected between two conductive layers in a connector assembly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and allowance of claims 19-23 is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 20 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Because claim 20 depends from a claim believed to be in condition for allowance as amended, it is not rewritten but is further believed to be allowable as dependent on an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 349-9581) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

NADER N. ABAZARNIA ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date

June 30 04

By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30 day of June, 2004.

Anne M. Richards

Name


Signature